AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief review of important matters affecting labor, securing in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

LABOR BOARD REJECTS PERSONAL CONTRACTS

Washington, Aug. 24.—The national war labor board has notified employers and employees, and the Smith & Wesson Arms company, of Springfield, Mass., to notified that "the practice of the company in times past to take restrictive personal contracts, even if lawful when made, is contrary to the principles of the national war labor board, and the practice of taking such contracts should be discontinued for the period of the war."

The company had secured these individual contracts from workers who decide any form of collective bargaining to its employees, who were discharged and that as they showed any inclination to object.

The decision is in line with similar rulings by the board in the case in opposition to a decision by the United States supreme court, which upheld individual contracts. last December.

After smashing its individual contracts the board notifies the company that its employees will be protected in their right to organize and bargain collectively, as this is a fundamental principle of the board.

It is immaterial that all matters in dispute as to wages and other conditions be adjusted by a joint committee and is not necessary that every matter be referred to the national war labor board.

Detailed instructions are given as to how these committees shall be selected by the workers under the supervision of a representative of the national war labor board that an honest selection may be made.

It is hinted that company representatives are tearing their hair because of the restriction of their individual contracts and much talk is being indulged in by them about "taking the matter to the courts."

ACCIDENTS INCREASE.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 24.—Barney Cohen, chief of the state factory inspection department of labor, says accidents in Illinois are increasing and the demand for labor makes it imperative that the hazards in industry be reduced.

"No matter what the industrial conditions, are," says the director, "machinery should be safely guarded in full compliance with the law, now, more than ever, and no excuses can be tolerated by the inspector whose duty it is to see that workers are not subjected to abnormal hazard.

"Under the more crowded conditions of our work shops and factories it will be necessary for safeguarding to be given most careful attention. The increased strain placed upon the workers in the rush of production must not be forced to work in surroundings which reduce his ability to resist disease and accident or be filled with dust particles or chemical substances injurious to health.

"No allowance can be made for the necessity for greater output or spurious excuses accepted as there is no option available, other than that enacted law be strictly observed by all employers of labor."

OPPOSE LONG WORK DAY.

Everett, Wash., Aug. 24.—The Everett trades council don't favor the suggestion submitted by members of the legal legion of loggers and lumbermen that they work 10 hours a day instead of eight hours. The council puts oppose surrendering their recently secured shorter work day and see in the proposal "the apparent motive of mill owners to return to the 10-hour plan because of putting on another eight-hour shift.

The loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen is the scheme of Brig. Gen. in charge of the government's production of spruce lumber. The legion has been condemned by the International Union of Timber Workers, and the members of the union have withdraw the colonel "from his present field of activities unless he modified the proposal so as to be acceptable to put into operation."

The unionists say that employers are using the argument of "war emergency" to hold autocratic domination over the workers now and after the war.

UNION BRINGS RESULTS.

Erie, Pa., Aug. 24.—Six years ago bolting unionists in this city were paid 25 cents an hour with no limit to the work day. Their union is now organized, is receiving 50 cents and a nine-hour day established with pay for overtime and holiday work. On work outside the limit of the employer shall pay for time in excess of 9 hours time going to and from the work, and shall pay double rate for time in excess of city street car fare.

The arbitration section provides that two members of the union and two members of the Master Builders' association shall constitute a board of settlement of a dispute, and on their failure they shall select a disinterested person who shall be chairman of the board.

CLOAK MAKERS ACCEPT.

Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 24.—Striking cloak, suit and skirt makers, affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, have accepted the plan submitted by Secretary of War Baker to end this dispute, which has caused by low wages and victimization.

The settlement includes reinstatement of all strikers and means that no reference for a period of not less than eight months.

A government representative reported that 80 per cent of the workers in this industry in Cleveland are receiving 50 or less a year, and that women earned only $8 a week for the first six months of their employment.

CAN'T DODGE WAR TAXES.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Corporations which attempt to dodge war taxes by increasing their capital stock to cover surplus and undivided profits have been warned by Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper that the law will not do so avail, since the capital actually invested in the business, rather than the amount of outstanding capital stock, is the basis for measuring taxable excess profits.

BIG MONEY IN LEATHER.

New York, Aug. 24.—The annual report of the American Hide and Leather company for the last fiscal year shows a record profit above fixed profits of $2,385,619. This is an increase of $632,562 over the previous year.

DOCK MEN'S WAGES GO UP.

Ashland, Wis., Aug. 24.—An arbitration board has ordered that coal dock hands shall be paid 50 cents an hour for a nine-hour day; 6 cents an hour for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays.

LABOR'S INFLUENCE MUST EXTEND SOUTH

Washington, Aug. 24.—The necessity for the labor movement of the South in America is increasing, writes Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico, in the American Federationist.

The capitalists of North America, and some European countries in combination with financial interests and officials of the various governments, he says, "are scattering millions of dollars through Latin America, acquiring concessions and business properties which are disposed of to them by Latin-American politicians and speculators, without taking into consideration the needs and rights of the masses of the people, who by these transactions have their future endangered for decades and perhaps centuries.

"If the employers and capitalists of Pan-America unite for the purpose of protection of their common advantages, it becomes all the more evident that the wage earners of the same countries must also unite for their common protection and defense.

"Out of all the chaotic mishaps, strivings and plottings of the money trust and allied interests, and the conflicts forced upon the Latin-American peoples, one sees steadily emerging and growing the purpose and determination of these financial agents to control the resources made available for the promised power and wealth to be won out of cheap labor and even slave labor.

"In most of these countries the conditions of the working people are deplorable. Plutocratic forces of the United States are taking the good name of this country in vain, creating among these peoples a wrong conception of American ideas and ideals. It will be the duty of the whole American federation of labor to show to the world that its purpose it to permeate the western hemisphere with human influence. This influence will come only through the enlightenment of the American people than the influence of all the corporations of the United States, however strong, contrast with those capitalists who are eternally seeking business, business, and 'dollars,' 'dollars.'"

TELEGRAPHERS GAIN.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Postmaster General Burleson has approved a 10 per cent increase in wages granted of the Western Union Telegraph company with the understanding it applies to all the employes.

The Western Union's "union" was formed in the city recently when 16 telegraphers, supposed to represent 50,000 employes, adopted a constitution. Following this action a meeting was called in this city to organize a local. Chicago is classed as a "local" as the telegraphers have failed to live up to the reputation the company wished on them, as they 35 years ago, according to the company.

The same percentage prevailed in other cities and in New York the "union" elected a janitor as its first president.

The company has then announced its wage increase for the "loyalists."

This means that Western Union has gained a victory which will apply the sugar and molasses system in the hope that the bona fide labor movement will be chloroformed rather than bludgeoned.

WHY FISH COST IS HIGH.

Boston, Aug. 24.—Over a score of men prominent in the fish industry and banking circles have been indicted by the federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy and of attempting to create a monopoly in the fish business. The charges followed in the formation and operation of the Bay State Fishing company which was recently formed by the International Union of Timber Workers, and the members of the union have withdraw the colonel "from his present field of activities unless he modified the proposal so as to be acceptable to put into operation."

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"Only Profiteers Demand Conscription of Labor"

Washington, Aug. 24.—"Drag out the conspirators behind conscription and you will find they are the most profitee war profiteers in the United States," said Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in opposing conscription of labor before the house committee on military affairs.

Senator Thomas of Colorado is responsible for this objectionable amendment to the selective draft legislation. The amendment is as follows:

"That where any person shall have been placed in a deferred or exempted class for any of the reasons in this paragraph set forth, he shall not be entitled to remain therein unless he shall in good faith continue, while physically able to do so, to work at and follow such occupation, employment or business, and if he fails so to do he shall again be subject to the draft; and the board shall make regulations for enforcing this provision."

Secretary Morrison showed that the government has not asked for this amendment, which is offered simultaneously with the administration's announcement of a nationwide organizing campaign against the steel trust.

"This amendment," declared the trade unionist, "is an attack on the loyalty of American workmen and will fester and rankle in the minds of our allies, that our workers are slackers, that they are not giving their best for the war.

"Secretary of War Baker is authority for this statement. When asked by the senate committee what he thought of the amendment he said:

"'I think it is unfortunate to add that.'

"It is therefore a fact," continued Secretary Morrison, "that the government is not exercised over the industrial situation. There is only one is. He is hidden in the dark engineering a movement to conscript labor and to use it in peace as an amendment to the draft bill.

"When war was declared the workers of the nation willingly fell in line, ready to go where needed to save the country and the world for democracy. It is the same democracy we are fighting for in protesting against the amendment.

"The working men attacked by this conscription amendment did not ask for exemption. They wanted to fight. But the necessities of war made it imperative that they should be exempted, so they could manufacture munitions for the soldiers at the front. That was agreed to and fixed by the exemptions.

"Now comes this amendment, the trade unionist, "is an attack on the crossed cost of living, with only increased wages and hours, and to concede sufficient wage for a fair living standard. Low wages and poor working conditions became unbearable and strikes followed. But these strikes were soon adjusted by the machinery of the department of labor.

"Notwithstanding the peaceful industrial situation it is now proposed to take action against the workers who have kept from the front against their will, desire to earn a living sufficient to keep themselves, and families above the poverty line.

"Assuming this law is enacted and carried out to the letter, and 2,000 mechanics to a war plant strike, what then? How can they be forced to work? Will the government become a strikebreaking agency, and soldiers who seek to save democracy to defeat working men who are also fighting for democracy on the industrial field?

"If soldiers are not used, where will strikebreakers be found? Is the Colorado Fuel and Iron company at the great steel trust behind this legislation? A few days ago employes at Elwood, Indiana, struck for the right to leave the question of wages to the national war labor board. The request refused. If these employes strike, what would be their status under this law?

"Employes of the steel trust throughout the country have organizing. In this amendment intended to frighten them into the belief that if they strike they will be sent to the trenches. Many of these men who believes he would be better off in the trenches than in the steel plants, where he is now employed overworked and underpaid. But the conspirators did not believe this. Hence conscription.

"There is nothing theeflain in the loyalty pledge of the American Federation of Labor and its 2,000,000 members. It was given March 12, 1917—before war—at a meeting of the national and international labor officials. Afterwards it was indorsed by local unions, city and state federations of labor, and at the convention of the American Federation of Labor, in Buffalo, November, 1917.

"We do not ask for favors. We ask that labor and similar attempts to surreptitiously conscript labor be defeated.

"Drag out the conspirators behind conscription and you will find they are the most profitee war profiteers in the United States.

"The working people of the nation would gladly support a policy of a government that sought to make the world believe they would not work for the Kaiser and fight against their will. The American Federation of Labor has suggested that labor might against a plot to degrade labor, to level it down to the conditions in our enemy countries.

"This is the United States, not Germany."

LOWERING STANDARDS IS NOT CO-OPERATION

Cincinnati, Aug. 24.—The International Molders' Journal suggests that trade unionists stand for real co-operation with employers and not with "so," but to guard against so-called co-operation that has for its purpose the lowering and wrecking of unionism.

"There is," says this paper, "a definite movement being carried on by powerful associations of employers to force organized labor into a subordinate position. They are also using so-called co-operation to secure the enactment of anti-strike legislation. The anti-trade union associations of employers are also endeavoring to secure the enactment of compulsory arbitration measures, and behind the scenes we can see all of the machinery at work which in the past has enabled them to prevent the existence of trade union organizations.

"These forces are calling upon labor to co-operate, but the kind of co-operation which they desire is not that of equals, but the impudence of the man who considers himself a master and demands that those in his employ shall respond to his demands and orders with the humility and servility of servants.

"There must be co-operation, but in this country it cannot be secured unless employers recognize that the workers are free men, and not serfs, as in the German citizens possessing equal rights and having one common purpose—the development of the highest standards in industrial as well as in civil life."

FOOD COSTS GOING SKYWARD.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The retail price of food continues skyward, according to the bureau of labor statistics.

Between 15 and May 15 of this year prices jumped 3 per cent.

Between May 15, this year, and May 15 last year, prices increased 5 per cent.

Between May, 1912, and May, 1913, prices advanced 2 per cent.

Between April 15 and May 15 of this year, the price of round steak advanced 3 per cent; rib roast 2 per cent; sirloin steak, rib and chuck roast 1 per cent; pork chops, 2 per cent and bacon, ham and lard, 3 per cent.

The 63 per cent increase between 1913 and 1918 shows that every article advanced 28 per cent or over. Corn meal increased 28 per cent; oatmeal 108, flour 100, milk 50, butter 43 and potatoes 28. Ten other articles increased over 50 per cent.

TEXTILE WORKERS OUT.

Columbia, S. C., Aug. 24.—Failing to break the strike of its textile workers, the Victor-Monaghan company made a successful appeal to Governor Dorsey to send the military here, and the governor has ordered out fifty-six militiamen. Of a mass meeting of citizens the governor was asked to order the closing of the saloons to their camp as existing conditions did not warrant their presence.

The mill owners have secured an injunction against Organizer Thomas of the United Textile Workers restraining him from attempting to unionize these mills.

The military and injunction judge, however, have had little effect on the strikers.

TO DISCUSS WOMEN LABOR.

New London, Conn., Aug. 24.—In the call for the annual convention of the Connecticut state federation of labor, beginning today, it is stated that "the influx of women into the various industries is a factor that will call for the most consideration thought, as there appears to be a tendency to displace men by cheaper work which would indicate more than temporary intention. With thousands of returning soldiers and sailors to be added to thousands of returned soldiers and sailors, it offers a task that will be created a condition which may well give organized labor something to think about."

TO ENFORCE LABOR LAWS.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The war labor policies board has prepared conclusions for government use which require the observance of state labor laws, with especial reference to child labor, hours of labor and safety and sanitary conditions.

The board has appointed Dr. A. C. Summers, commissioner of agriculture, commerce and industries, to make effective this decision.

HOW ABOUT AMERICA?

Washington, Aug. 24.—In an address in this city, Mrs. Howard Hammford, wife of the embassy in Japan, stated that girls 12 years of age worked 10 and 12 hours a day in that country. The speaker said that she hoped that legislation in Japan to correct this evil.

MILK DRIVERS GAIN.

Newark, N. J., Aug. 24.—Members of Milk Drivers' union No. 197 have secured wage increases of $2 a week.

BAKERS RAISE WAGES.

Cincinnati, Aug. 24.—Bakers' union No. 54 has increase wages $2 a week.

"WAKE UP AND LIVE."

Chicago, Aug. 24.—"You employers who work only one day out of the week juggler with figures to tell you about your wages," writes Editor Evans in the Locomotive Engineers' Journal of Steam Engineer.

"You know how much or how little you are making per hour. You look at it when you pay your rent, when you buy clothes, when you go to feed, when you are lucky enough to get coal at any price. After you have paid for these things you have little left, and in order to exist, you learn how little you can afford to spend for pleasure. "You know that you are being made up mostly of toil, toil and small pay. Some of you get a little higher wages, a little more salary—than others. None of you get a living wage. And you, and the class you belong to, have built the world in all its beauty and glory.

"A living wage is a wage that will buy the best of everything your labor has produced. A wage so large that you will not have to rob your own flesh and blood of the thing to which they are entitled by the right of life, itself. None of you who work get such a wage. Why do you do so much and get so little?

"Let me help with the answer. Your wage is never higher than your powers to demand it. Your strength, your skill, your ability together than your economic power to enforce them. Your lot in life is determined by your strength to compel your boss to pay you a living wage. How are you to get the power to get a real living wage and make your life mean more than a mere existence?

"By organization. By organization only.

"Wake up and live!"

TYPHOID RATE IS LOW.

Madison, Wis., Aug. 24.—Figures made public by the state board of health show Wisconsin has the lowest typhoid death rate in the union—6.7 per 100,000 population. Kentucky is second with 7.1 per 100,000 population, followed by North Carolina, with 11.3; Maryland, 21.1, Mississippi, 21.6; Ohio, 23.3, and Illinois, 24.3.

Wisconsin's ranking position is due, according to state health officials, to better protection of water supplies and scientific disposal of household wastes. The latter practice includes the elimination of many cess pools and the substitution of residential sewage disposal plants where public sewage is not available.

"The evidence at hand proves," says the state board, "that typhoid fever increases in proportion to the saturation of the city with decomposing organic matter, especially human excreta, and the drinking of infected water. Typhoid fever disappears in proportion as a city is well sewered and the water supply is abandoned of the drinking of contaminated water."

STATE BUILDERS TO MEET.

Columbus, O., Aug. 24.—The Ohio state building trades council will hold its annual convention in this city beginning September 2. Frank J. Secretary-Treasury Mugavin says:

"The world war in which we are at present engaged has presented to the building trades many complex problems, and should be thoroughly discussed at the convention, so that ways and means provided to prevent the loss of life and limb of workers in the building trades of Ohio in position to increase and hold our standards and men's wages, which will follow when the war is over."

IRON WORKERS GAIN.

Cleveland, O., Aug. 24.—The Phoenix Horse Shoe company and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers have signed an agreement granting an increase of 5 per cent. The company has plants in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and Joliet, Ill.

Reading, Pa., Aug. 24.—Employes of the Carpenter steel plant have organized with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

TO PROBE LIVING COSTS.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The bureau of labor statistics of the federal department of labor has started a countrywide probe of the cost of living. The findings will be used as a basis in making wage adjustments. Every household in Boston and Ohio representatives is urged to furnish the information asked for.

TO BUILD 1,293 HOMES.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The housing bureau of the department of labor has awarded contracts for the construction of 1,293 houses at 45 Bethlehem, Pa., and 198 family-cost houses at Seven Pines, Va.

FREIGHT HANDLERS UNITE.

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 24.—Seventy freight handlers have organized and affiliated with the trade union movement. They have secured a wage increase of 5 cents an hour.

FAIL TO BRIBE UNIONIST.

Minneapolis, Aug. 24.—Editor Cramer of the Labor Review prints a reproduction of a letter sent to Charles A. Trotter, local manager of the Burns detective agency, by the secretary of the Machinists' union, who is asked to meet the detective "upon a matter of considerable importance."

Abby accepted the invitation and was told that certain employers wished him to "make the men satisfied with their conditions." One of the Burns men in Minneapolis got a job in Machinery company, whose employes persist in joining the trade union movement. He was told that he would be paid a monthly salary or a bonus if he could induce a number of unionist that his clients were irritated over the government's policy of interfering with labor's affairs in a war that was involved and they wanted this practice discontinued.

Abby acted in time to consider the question, and when he found that the detective could not be arrested, he informed Trotter of his opinion of these methods.

With an impudence that these detectives alone possess, Trotter replied: "If you change your mind, call me up."

RUSSIAN LIVING COSTS HIGH.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The United States bureau of labor statistics points to enormous increases in wages in Moscow, Russia, which were first given to the workmen's paper in that city. It is stated that "conditions in Moscow are more favorable than in this country than those in any other Russian city."

Between August, 1914, and August, 1917, the cost of living there increased 30 per cent; beef, 60 per cent; pork, 110 per cent; butter, 567 per cent; milk, 150 per cent, and fuel 433 per cent.

Within the first three years of the war manufactured products increased as follows: Cotton prints, 1,172 per cent; cotton cloth, 1,900 per cent; woolen cloth, 1,900 per cent; men's shoes, 1,700 per cent; men's boots, 1,600 per cent, and small wares articles, 1,900 per cent.

During the period from 1914 to 1916 wages fell—a woefully short in meeting these figures, the bureau being: Carpenters' wages $1.02 a day in 1914 to $4.38 in 1916; painters, from $1.13 to $4.15, blacksmiths, from $1.16 to $4.35, machinists, from $1.02 to $4.64, unskilled laborers, from 77 cents to $4.13.

OBJECTS TO FRANCHISE.

Chicago, Aug. 24.—Organized street car men are objecting to a street car franchise which contains the cutest little "hooker" for the employes, the proposition that corporation lawyers can devise.

It is proposed that the company be guaranteed 6 per cent interest on its investment during the life of the franchise, but wage increases endanger this figure the company may increase fares.

The Chicago Railways company of the car men, says "this will be a fine lever in the hands of the company to answer public sentiment against the employes' union, placing the blame on the employe for increased cost of service when, as a matter of fact, all expenditures will be made with the approval of their trustees, and the financial return to the company guaranteed."

STREET CAR MEN STRIKE.

St. John, Nova Scotia, Aug. 24.—Street car men employed by the New Brunswick Power company suspended work to enforce better treatment by that corporation.

Dubuque, Iowa, Aug. 24.—A complete tie-up of the local street car system followed the company's refusal to grant increased wages and conditions to its motormen and conductors. These employes are pressing the matter to the national war labor board.

MORE COAL MINED.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Production of anthracite coal for the week ended August 10 was 1,649,064 gross tons, an increase of 59,000 tons over the same period last year. The total anthracite coal mined during the calendar year 1918 to date was 28,000,000 as compared with 29,310,311 tons for the same period in 1917.

MR. M'ADOO CUSSES.

Washington, Aug. 24.—To emphasize his point that the railroads under government control are run for the benefit of the people, Director General of Railroads McAdoo includes in mild cussing by declaring that the "public-be-damned" policy don't go.

STATE CAUSE FOR STRIKES.

Toronto, Canada, Aug. 24.—The Great War Veterans' association has called on the government to control the prices of the necessities of life, as the high cost of living is responsible for numerous strikes.

PUSH OUT NON-ESSENTIALS.

Washington, Aug. 24.—A national survey by the United States employment service shows that enlistment of men in non-essential industries for the national labor situation, especially certain building trades, is seriously

BLACK NEWSPAPERS ATTACKED BY MINER

Hazelton ,Pa., Aug. 24.—Thomas Kennedy, president of district No. 7, United Mine Workers, in an interesting against the policy of "black" newspapers that are charging anthracite miners with slacking, tendency says the miners have endeavored to secure publicity in New York and Philadelphia by means of "public opinion," and "did everything in their power to launch any battery on the editors to have our side printed, and failed.

"Blood from your failure to journey our articles in the New York papers," he says, "the Philadelphia papers have refused to print any of its lies against the anthracite miners and to attack them in lying editorials. We proceeded to Philadelphia and took the matter up with the federal fuel administrator, Mr. Potter, and in his office we prepared a statement, which was handed to Mr. Potter. This statement contained a scathing denunciation of the metropolitan dailies and stated that they were first to exploit the anthracite region. This statement was released by Mr. Potter at noon, as a government document and not one newspaper in Philadelphia published the article except the Ledger and Union Labor News.

"Mr. Potter readily discern that it is a very hard matter for the mine workers to have articles published in the metropolitan press, when even the government cannot force these papers to give us equal space.

"The anthracite mine workers want a square deal, and we will accept a square deal despite the attitude of the metropolitan press."

BORDER MEET ATTRACTS.

Laredo, Tex., Aug. 24.—The international convention of the labor representatives of American and Mexican workmen, beginning November 12 next, promises to be a most historic event. President Wilson has been invited and it has been learned Carranza of Mexico.

Governor Hunt of Arizona was the first state executive to announce his intention of being present. In a letter to President Gompers he said:

"A short way to establish a better understanding between this country and Mexico has never existed and in the past would be to establish that understanding through labor.

"Natural conditions in the northern part of Mexico are almost identical with the conditions of the border states in this country; industries are the same. This can only be done through education and fraternity of ideas."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

San Antonio, Tex., Aug. 24.—The Typographical union has secured a $1 per week increase which has members employed in commercial shops.

Sacramento, Cal., Aug. 24.—Printers employed in the state printing office have received a wage increase of 8 per cent, dating from July 1. This is in addition to similar advances made last September, and makes an average increase for each printer and allied craftsmen of more than $100 a year. Proportional increases have been made throughout the plant.

SHIP YARD RATES LOW.

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 24.—The claim that the wage increase of the shipbuilders has been given a setback by figures published by Director General Hoff, is shown that for the first six months of the year ship yard workmen in this state were paid a total of $12,218,756 for 2,256,272 work days.

This is an average of a little more than $5.40 per day, or $1,944 for the year, as the average wage of ship yard employes in Oregon. These figures are less than the $4-a-day minimum rate for common labor that the national war labor board has declared for.

WIN SEVEN-WEEKS' STRIKE.

Newton Upper Falls, Mass., Aug. 24.—A seven-weeks' strike of machinists and allied workers ended when all employes are reinstated, wages are increased 10 per cent and shop committees are recognized.

About 600 workers were involved. The settlement is said to be satisfactory to both sides.

SOLVE LABOR SHORTAGE.

Seattle, Aug. 24.—Ship workers in this city suggest that business men who talk of volunteering for work in ship yards can best serve their country by enlisting in the army thereby releasing trained ship builders who have enlisted and whose especial ability is now "lost in Uncle Sam.

NOT SUPPLYING SERVANTS.

New Orleans, Aug. 24.—In an interview in a local newspaper, Max Lowe, Pittman, of the women's division of the United States employment service, says the government is not supplying servants for the wealthy, but is asking for the services of women in the war industries.

BASIC EIGHT-HOUR DAY FOR CORN PRODUCTS

Washington, Aug. 24.—The Corn Products company has accepted the basic eight-hour day after organized labor captured representatives of employes the company believed were safe and sane.

This concern employs 5,500 workers in its plants at Argo near Chicago, Pekin and Granite City, Ill.; Oswego, N. Y., and Edgewater, N. J. An organization committee has been conducted among these employes, and to this end the unionists of the company formed a "Good Fellowship" club and selected representatives of employes who came to Washington to present their case to the national war labor board.

When the war labor board opened the case, President Pitzpatrick of the Chicago federation of labor announced that he was spokesman for these employes, and invited all Corn Products workers to join the union and to be accepted one-half of the other demands. Wages and other conditions in the corn sugar industries are under war labor board.

The trade unionists' success means that the Corn Products company has lost its hold on workers who have finally secured protection by the A. F. of L. At its Argo plant working conditions have bordered on peonage. Two years ago three strikers were killed when employes attempted to improve conditions at that factory.

UNITY IN COLORADO.

Salida, Col., Aug. 24.—Representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, extended fraternal greetings to the Colorado state federation of labor. The firemen expressed the hope that they would be affiliated with the A. F. of L. and the latter organization, engineers, who have recently affiliated with the A. F. of L., predicted their early affiliation with the allied body.

The convention favored abandoning the present referendum system of election of officers and returning to the convention method.

Miami, Ariz., Aug. 24.—The annual convention of the Arizona state federation of labor made strong objection to discharge of workers engaged in labor activities, as recommended by the mining congress, and supported by other employers. Phoenix was selected as the next convention city.

NOT CAUGHT BY FLATTERY.

Manchester, England, Aug. 24.—The Cotton Factory Times laughs at the impudence of an evening newspaper which suggested that Minister of Labor Roberts is one of the labor ministers "who has emphatically made good during the war."

"That," says the Cotton Factory Times, "is praise which is tantamount to damning with faint praise, no fear that Mr. Roberts himself will take it that way. It is for us to say whether he has made good. He the one in question assuming the role of deciding whether a labor member of parliament has made good' is too ridiculous for words."

The Cotton Factory Times then expresses this opinion on this system of flattery:

"However they cannot smash by venom they try to entangle and trip by nauseous patronage and second-rate adulation."

WATER POWER WASTED.

Portland, Me., Aug. 24.—The use of coal in Maine would be rare if the water of this state were harnessed to its full capacity, according to the public utilities commission, which says in its annual report:

"Within our great state are water powers which are practically unsusceptible of development, from which could be obtained sufficient electrical energy to turn every wheel in Maine—steam railroad cars, electric cars, manufacturing or mechanical, and to furnish all the power needed for pumping water, sawing wood, etc., light every building, and even then there would be more than half of the energy available."

OPERATORS EVADE LAW.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 24.—Because the coal operators refuse to comply with laws of the state relative to weighing coal, much discontent exists among miners, and coal production has been retarded to some extent, according to reports received by the state department of labor.

"The miners want to work and produce all the coal possible, and they also want the coal properly weighed and object to being 'short-changed' by corporations," says the report, "complain on this subject and the miners insist upon the observance of the law."

MINERS WANT WORK.

Issaquah, Wash., Aug. 24.—Organized miners ask the state fuel administrator to "give us work." Coal company is permitted to operate its mines but two days a week when the public is threatened with a coal famine.

A local ordinance makes it a misdemeanor for miners to be idle, and the miners are in a position where they want to work but can't, and are liable to be prosecuted because they are not working.

GAINS BY STOVE MOUNTERS.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 24.—Officers of the Stove Mounters' international union report that local No. 91, Cincinnati, Ohio, has secured wage increases before the war board, and a day rate of 50 cents an hour. In Atlanta, Ga., a wage increase of 5 cent has been secured, and increases at Piqua, Ohio, are recorded.

FLINTS RAISE WAGES.

Toledo, O., Aug. 24.—The American Flint Glass Workers' union has secured wage increases as a result of conferences with manufacturers. States are advanced 21 per cent for blowers and 20 per cent for gatherers. Apprentice boys receive $6 per week for the latter and $8.10 for the former.

NO PRIVATE CONTRACTS.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Director General Hines has informed the war department that no agreement between railroad officials and railroad employes will be recognized by the war department unless it conforms with general orders Nos. 18 and 28 and with other orders issued by the director general.

WIN WAR FOR FREEDOM IS GOMPERS' APPEAL

Washington, Aug. 24. — President Gompers has issued this statement today:

"Win the war for freedom!

"That is the labor day thought of America and that will be their thought until the war for freedom is won.

"The war for freedom' is inscribed upon the banners of American labor, and through victory and hamlet, in the message that will be spoken from every platform it is the song of every heart.

"Win the war for freedom' because it is a war for freedom' and because only through victory can there be freedom.

"The working people of America are conscious of their duty and part in making victory possible and will do their part, not as a task, but as a right—a right to share in the work of securing forever that freedom which they prize above all things.

"We have no recourse to rhetoric to state our case. The facts are simply stated, but of supreme importance. Our democracy is assailed. Our liberty is challenged. Autocracy challenges our sacred rights.

"We are in the most sacred duty to win safety for the existence of our democracy, for only when there is safe for democracy in the world are opportunities and its value.

"'Win the war for freedom!'

"'Win the war for freedom!' means the Central Powers must be radically put down and our lives as American men and as workers. It is the supreme purpose of our lives on this labor day."

MINERS TALK PLAIN.

Moberly, Mo., Aug. 24.—Because of the continued failure to settle differences between union miners and coal companies in accordance with the Southwestern Interstate Coal Operators' association, officers of district No. 14, United Mine Workers, have forwarded this notice to F. W. Luking, president of the association:

"We, and the workers you that while we have the right, under our constitution, to call a strike of the above named companies, but on account of the urgent request of the government in asking that nothing be done thats would cause the production of coal at this time.

"On the other hand, in loyalty, to our country, we postpone the time of calling the strike, but we want you to distinctly understand that we are not waiving our right to call the strike at once if we are waiting in principle in the contract, that the operators refuse to live up to, refused to recognize, and we wish to further inform you that if your association and the miners have not come to a satisfactory issue to do business with the United Mine Workers, that some day in the future the United Mine Workers' union named companies and the representatives of said association have ignored will be recognized."

LANDLORDS LESSEN SHIPS.

Seattle, Aug. 24.—The "real estate" unionists of this city declare that the profiteering policy of Seattle landlords, who are charged with "profiteering" in building, is "retarding building in this city."

The unionists declare that local yards have turned out approximately 25 per cent of all the ships built for the federal shipping board, and that "profiteering is keeping this record down."

"Evidence collected shows that ship yard workers brought into the city by the thousands are paid against and have been charged even more than other workers for similar quarters, and that the necessary transportation is not given due attention exceeding 10 per cent in a few months, on the false assumption that these yard workers are receiving high pay for their work, and can afford to pay purchasing power of their wages, is not true."

The unionists ask the government to establish a rental agency of the federal shipping board, numerous real estate agents in accumulation that are useful in winning the war.

RELEASE FARM SOLDIERS.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The war department announces that this procedure should be followed in securing the release of farmers from the soldiers to help gather fall crops:

"Any soldier himself may make application for his return on farms provided for this purpose. The application when approving the application, will forward it to the commanding officer of the camp where the soldier is stationed. If approved by the commanding officer, he will be furnished a furlough, order, directing that the man be returned to agriculture."

R. R. SAVING $25,000,000.

Washington, Aug. 24.—By the reduction of passenger service, the elimination of unnecessary duplication and the pooling of facilities under government operation, economies amounting to $25,000,000 a year have been effected in the northwestern operating districts, according to reports received by Director General McAdoo from Mr. McAdoo.

More than $20,000,000 of this was in passenger economies. The officials say the other six districts are making similar records.

61 NEW UNIONS.

Cincinnati, Aug. 24.—The Railway Clerk, official organ of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, says that a few lodges were organized or reinstated during the month of July, in addition to the organization of the most of these lodges have forwarded applications for charters and materially increase their numerical strength.

MUSICIANS WANT MORE.

Baltimore, Aug. 24.—High living costs are responsible for musicians in cities to ask theater managers for a 25 per cent wage increase.

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 24.—Musicians have asked theatrical managers to increase wages.

CEMENT SUPPLY CUT.

Washington, Aug. 24.—The fuel administration has ordered a 25 per cent curtailment of the output of cement production. This will affect hundreds of builders throughout the country. Cement materials and purposes are not affected by the order.

TO ORGANIZE WOMEN.

Houston, Tex., Aug. 24.—A convention has been set for the Texas state federation of labor.